

The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City



Lifting Up Those in Need American Fork City State of the City

By Brad Frost, Mayor

2020 tested each of us in ways we've never experienced. We were all affected in some way by the numerous challenges that were presented to us, and though many difficult times are behind us, many still await.

At our cemetery stands an 8-foot-tall monument called the Statue of Responsibility. This statue, sculpted by artist Gary Lee Price, consists of two hands holding one another's wrists; one hand reaching up in need and the other reaching down to help. The statue is intended to represent the responsibility we have to help those around us. I am reminded of this statue when I reflect upon 2020 and the many ways I saw people extend their hands down, like the statue, and lift up those in need.

Like many of our businesses, American Fork had to reinvent itself to ensure we were safe and compliant while still providing our essential services. Our recreation, library, and fitness

To read Mayor Frost's full
State of the City address, visit:
americanfork.gov

center were probably the most disrupted by the coronavirus. Like many others we were asked early in the year to shut down most of our facilities, which was difficult on our staff and our residents. Unsurprisingly, we all discovered quickly that when you're stuck at home, things like exercise and reading become very important. For that reason, our city worked hard to minimize shutdowns for our residents. In fact, our library never fully closed. Rather, our librarians redirected resources to provide more eBooks, move programs online, create pick up kits for families, and they even started curbside book pick up and book quarantine processes.

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Changes to Trash Schedule ..	2
COVID-19 Stress Help	2
Culinary Water Line Work	3
Communities That Care	3
Recreation Center	3
Community Survey Results ...	4

Office Numbers

Administration	801-763-3000
Public Works	801-763-3060
Library	801-763-3070
Fitness Center	801-763-3080
Senior Center	801-763-3090

Non-Emergency

Police	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue	801-763-3045

On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain	801-404-7167
Streets	801-404-1255
Garbage	801-924-8500
Street Lights	801-814-4311



AMERICAN FORK
www.americanfork.gov



Lifting Up Those in Need

American Fork City State of the City



Continued from page 1

Additionally, our recreation and fitness center did a tremendous job at implementing ever-changing regulations while still allowing patrons to use our facilities and resources. At times this was difficult. Often, we were not provided advance notice when state officials announced changes to health guidelines and regulations. But we adapted quickly and implemented those changes almost overnight every time. Despite having to cancel a few of our recreation programs, we still had over 5,300 participants this year, maxing out most all remaining programs.

I felt our seniors were put in a perilous position during 2020 when they were asked to self-quarantine for their own safety, but in doing so were stripped of the activities and socialization that are vital to their mental and physical wellbeing. Some were also faced with the possibility of not getting basic needs like food and toiletries. But I am so very proud of our businesses, residents, and city staff who would not let our seniors avoid one risk only to succumb to another. Our businesses created special windows of time in which seniors could go shopping without crowds. I received numerous reports of families and neighbors checking regularly on elderly people in their community. And when we were asked to eliminate public gatherings, I immediately met with our senior center staff to see what could be done. Our senior center pivoted beautifully and began offering meals in a grab-and-go format; one of the first centers to do so in our county. Initially, we were only handing out 35 meals per day at our senior center. But as restrictions wore on the need for help only increased. During Christmas time, American Fork handed out 250 meals per day to our beloved seniors. In total for 2020 I estimate we handed out close to 30,000 meals to seniors. Over the course of the year I realized we were giving our seniors more than just meals. We were giving them friendship, conversation, and for some, a reason to get ready for the day. And in return they gave us perspective that people are what really matter most.

One of the saddest effects of the coronavirus was that it forced us to put a hold on some of the most meaningful moments of our lives. Funerals, weddings, and graduations were negatively impacted, if not canceled all together. That didn't sit right with me. Which is why last year we repurposed our Historic City Hall so our residents could hold virtual weddings and funerals. In addition to the physical space, we also gave them access to our virtual meeting software. AF city and businesses also helped our high school seniors celebrate graduation with a Main Street cruise. Families across American Fork once again were able to participate safely in precious family moments.

2020 has helped us all reevaluate what really matters. We all know roads are important. Drinking clean water is important. Being safe and healthy is important. But a high quality of life also consists of many smaller things that are far more important than we previously realized. For some of our seniors, it was important they had a place to go and people to talk to; a reason to get ready for the day. For a young couple in love, it was the chance to share their marriage vows with their families. For families it was important they spend time together outdoors. Parents realized just how important it was for their kids to go to school, play with friends, explore the world, and just be kids. And last month as I drove 30+ miles through town in a fire truck I got to see just how important Santa was for our children.

Last year I was grateful to see many reach out and help those around them, even in the face of adversity. I was also grateful that American Fork City could participate in assisting people. As one of our residents told me, "Thanks for helping us hold it together." In addition to providing the basic services in new ways, American Fork fought hard to keep the simple things going. Whether it was giving our residents a book, a meal, an activity, a glass of water, or a smile. So, let us build on what we learned last year, and make 2021 an even better year individually and collectively!

American Fork City 2021 Garbage and Recycling Schedule Changes

Effective February 16 Republic Services will be moving trash and recycle pick up to "zones" throughout the City. The specific weekday your trash and recycling is picked up will depend on where you live in the city. This also means recycle pick up will now be the same day as your trash pick up. Please visit americanfork.gov for information on pickup days and to view the zone map.



Free Help for COVID-19 Related Stress

If you or someone you know is experiencing stress, anxiety or depression because COVID-19, The Utah Strong Recovery Project offers crisis counselors seven days a week, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. All information is confidential and free of charge.

Services include emotional support, crisis counseling, coping strategies, mental health education, referrals if more help is needed.

Please call or text
385-386-2289

For immediate
response after
hours, call:

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

American Fork City to Begin Work Installing New Culinary Water Lines

American Fork City is dedicated to providing residents with clean and healthy culinary water. Some existing water lines in our city are in need of repair due to age and overall increased water demand. To meet these important needs, four new segments of water line are slated for installation in the next two years. Segments 1 and 2 begin installation February 2021. Segments 3 and 4 will start next year. As part of the projects

we will be repaving and reconstructing the roads. There will be impacts to city roads, but AF City is keeping you, our residents, in mind. The City will be working with contractors to minimize interruptions to residents, schools, and businesses. You can see the most up-to-date information on our website at americanfork.gov. With your cooperation, this project will be successful for everyone involved.

What you need to know:

What:

Culinary Water Line Replacement

Where:

Segment 1: Caveman Blvd and portions of Main Street
Segment 2: 200 South

When:

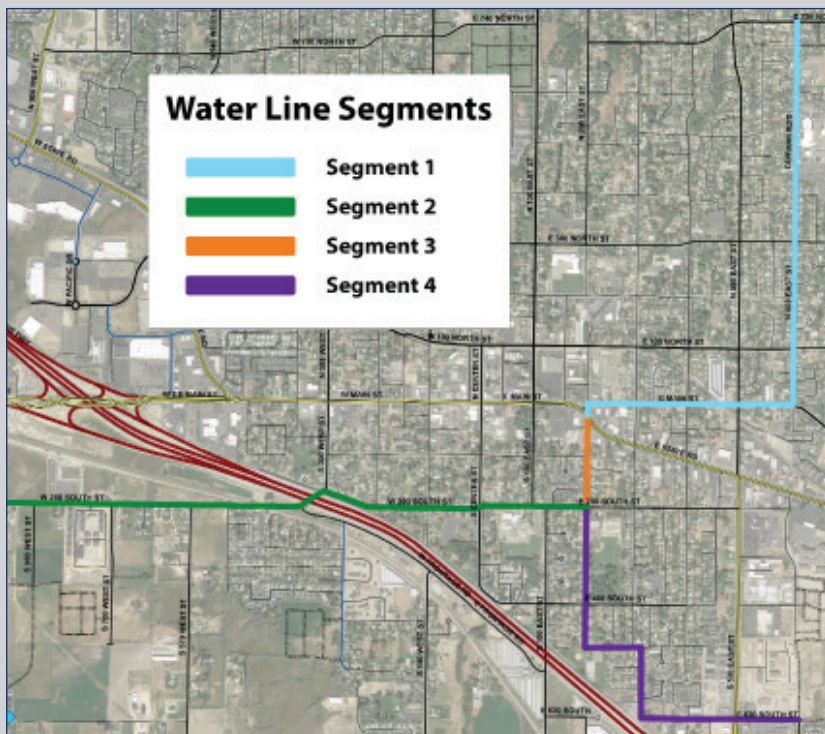
February – November 2021

Who:

Contractors working with American Fork Public Works Department

Why:

To replace aged water lines with newer lines to prepare for future demands



**communities
that care**

Here at AF Communities That Care we are so thankful we are already a month in to a new year! Even though it's a new year, we do realize how hard of a year 2020 was and that we are continuing to face many of the same problems that we have been. As hard as it has been for adults it has been equally hard for our youth. To help our kids navigate through this time, the Cook Family Center of Human Connection has started the website parentguidance.org. This new resource is 100% free and gives parents access to therapist backed courses that help youth navigate this new pandemic world we are living in. To access these courses and be able to ask licensed therapist questions, visit parentguidance.org and in the top right corner click the join free button.

By educating ourselves, we can help our youth through whatever this new year brings.



AMERICAN FORK
**FITNESS &
RECREATION**

Spring Soccer

Registration is now open!

For girls and boys in preschool through high school

Registration Deadline: February 17, 2021

Find detailed information on our website at americanfork.gov/recreation

Youth Baseball & Softball

Games begin April & May

Find detailed information on our website at americanfork.gov/recreation



2020 AMERICAN FORK COMMUNITY SURVEY

The 2020 American Fork Community Survey was open to the public from Nov 30 to Dec 31. The purpose of the survey was to get input from residents regarding their priorities, and to act as a report card for how well the City is doing at addressing those priorities.

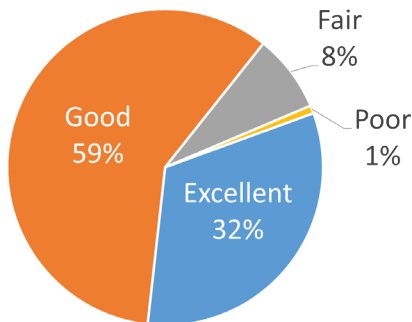
American Fork received 1,712 responses, which represents 20% of the households in the City. The results have been reviewed by Mayor, Council, and staff and will play a big part in driving future budgeting priorities.

We intend to offer this survey every year during Dec/Jan so if you missed this year's survey, know there will be a survey every year. We welcome all community input.

To review the full results of this year's survey please visit americanfork.gov/survey. Also read our Citizen's Want to Know article that analyzes the survey results in more detail and lays out what is done with those findings each year. That can also be found on our website.

Some Findings:

1. 91% of those surveyed are happy with their quality of life in American Fork and almost a third of them feel their quality of life is excellent.

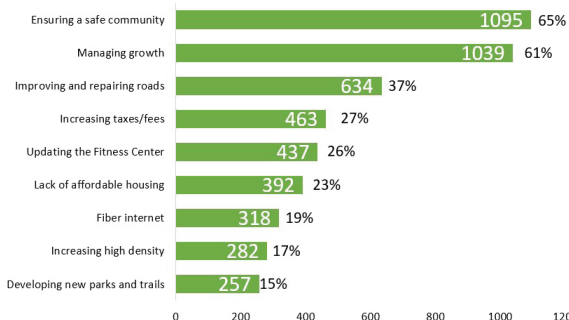


2. Family is the number one reason people listed for living in American Fork

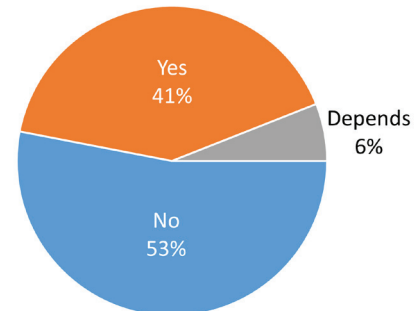
3. For the first time in five years of surveys, roads were not the top issue for residents. Ensuring a Safe Community was the number one issue, followed by Managing Growth. Roads was number three.

Top Issues in American Fork

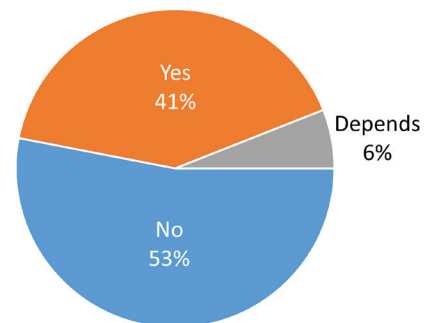
Top issues to focus on over the next 5 years



4. 60% of respondents agreed the city should look at options for fiber internet as a city service. This includes 3% that said they might support it if they knew more.



5. 53% of respondents said they would not support a fee or tax for road improvements.



AMERICAN FORK